

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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53-R  
ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 /007 W  
----- 087352  
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FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3961

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 9615

LIMDIS

FOR IO/EX/IR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ETEL, ITU, APER, AORG  
SUBJECT: D-1 POST, CHIEF OF CONFERENCES AND COMMON SERVICES  
(RUSSELL COOK POSITION)

REF: STATE 292835

1. ALTHOUGH NOMINATIONS FOR SUBJECT POSITION CLOSED OFFICIALLY NOVEMBER 8, CANDIDACIES ARE STILL COMING IN (THIS CAN BE DONE BY GOVERNMENTS WHO NOTIFIED ITU PRIOR TO CLOSING DATE THAT THEY INTENDED TO SUBMIT CANDIDATES LATER). AT LATEST COUNT, OVER THIRTY CANDIDACIES SUBMITTED.
2. U.S. CANDIDATE ROGER PROVENCHER VISITED GENEVA NOVEMBER 24-25, WHERE HE MET WITH COOK AND RICHARD KIRBY (U.S. CITIZEN DIRECTOR OF CCIR) AND SPENT ONE-HALF HOUR WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL BUTLER. UNFORTUNATELY, SECRETARY GENERAL MILI WAS AWAY FROM GENEVA; HE RETURNS ON DECEMBER 6.
3. PROVENCHER MADE A VERY GOOD IMPRESSION ON BUTLER, WHO TOLD COOK AFTERWARDS THAT HE "WAS SURE PROVENCHER COULD DO THE JOB". IT WILL, HOWEVER, BE MILI HIMSELF WHO MAKES THE ULTIMATE DECISION.
4. ALL CANDIDATES WILL BE CONSIDERED WHEN COORDINATION COMMITTEE (CONSISTING OF MILI, BUTLER, KIRBY, NEW CCITT DIRECTOR BURTZ AND IFRB CHAIRMAN GROMOV) MEETS ON DECEMBER 8.

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COMMITTEE WILL SELECT THREE TO FIVE BEST QUALIFIED CANDIDATES

FOR SHORT LIST; MILI WILL THEN SELECT ONE OF THESE. BUTLER  
AND COOK THOUGHT MILI WOULD MAKE HIS CHOICE PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS.

5. MISSION BELIEVES PROVENCHER'S CHANCES ARE VERY GOOD,  
ALTHOUGH IT IS RUMORED THAT SEVERAL OTHER HIGHLY QUALIFIED  
CANDIDATES ARE IN THE RUNNING -- PARTICULARLY A WEST GERMAN  
WHO PERFORMS A SIMILAR TASK TO COOK'S IN HIS COMMUNICATIONS  
MINISTRY AND IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH ITU AND ITS PERSONNEL.  
WE UNDERSTAND, TOO, THAT PETTIGNANT, A SWISS AND COOK'S DEPUTY  
FOR MANY YEARS, IS ALSO A STRONG CANDIDATE.

6. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER  
THE DECEMBER 8 MEETING IF PROVENCHER IS ON THE SHORT LIST.  
IF SO, MISSION JOINS COOK AND BUTLER IN STRONGLY RECOMMENDING  
THAT THE DEPARTMENT FIND A WAY TO GET PROVENCHER TO GENEVA  
FOR A PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH SYG MILI. A VISIT PRIOR TO  
DECEMBER 8 WOULD BE EVEN BETTER, ALTHOUGH THIS MIGHT BE  
HARDER TO ARRANGE IN VIEW OF SHORT TIME FRAME. CATTO

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## Message Attributes

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